



**Maryland Office of People's Counsel (OPC)**  
**Maryland Low-Income Research Tool**  
**Accessible to the Public**  
**NOW Available on OPC Website**

OPC represents the interests of residential utility customers in matters before the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC). The PSC regulates gas, electric, local landline and private water utilities, and oversees energy suppliers. OPC also works with agencies and non-profit organizations throughout the State on utility issues affecting low-income households.

OPC released a report, "*Maryland Low-Income Market Characterization Report*," in October 2018, prepared by a consultant, APPRISE. Using a customized database, the report examines low-income household data from the American Community Survey (ACS), the Weatherization Assistance Program provided by the Department of Housing and Community Development, energy assistance data provided by the Department of Human Services' Office of Home Energy Programs, and other sources. OPC commissioned the study to assist in understanding the energy affordability issues faced by low-income households in Maryland, and to help in the design and implementation of energy assistance and energy efficiency programs for households in need.

OPC is making this database available to everyone – agencies, non-profit organizations and members of the public – through our website. Users of the database will be able to conduct geographic, populations and statistical analyses to create custom, dynamic reports. While OPC's focus is on household energy needs and costs, other users may find the data points and reports helpful for other low-income household concerns.

Check out the Report, research tool, and tutorial on the Home Page at [www.opc.maryland.gov](http://www.opc.maryland.gov). Create your own reports and send us your feedback at [DLInfo\\_OPc@maryland.gov](mailto:DLInfo_OPc@maryland.gov).

*Office of People's Counsel*  
410-767-8150; 800-207-4055  
[DLInfo\\_OPc@maryland.gov](mailto:DLInfo_OPc@maryland.gov)  
[www.opc.maryland.gov](http://www.opc.maryland.gov)  
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